

Angie Lake

From: Andrew Mutch <andrewimutch@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 10:18 AM
To: Angie Lake
Subject: Fw: Opposition to Senate Bill 1188 and related bills

Angie,

Can this correspondence be shared with the other members of the Local Government committee and entered into the committee's record for public comment? I would have copied the other members on the original e-mail but the web site that has their contact information is not accessible this morning.

Thank you,

Andrew Mutch
Councilmember, City of Novi

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Andrew Mutch <andrewimutch@yahoo.com>
To: KathyCrawford@house.mi.gov <KathyCrawford@house.mi.gov>
Cc: JimRunestad@house.mi.gov <JimRunestad@house.mi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 10:15:44 AM EST
Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill 1188 and related bills

Representative Crawford,

I'm contacting you to voice my strong opposition to Senator Casperson's Senate Bill 1188, the so-called "Vegetation Removal Preemption Act". As this legislation is written, it would destroy the City of Novi's ability to protect large areas of woodlands across the city. It is a hastily drafted piece of legislation that will have far ranging negative consequences and should not be voted out of committee.

As you know, the City of Novi has had a version of the current Woodlands Protection ordinance in place since 1986. That ordinance and the subsequent updates were drafted with input from a wide range of interest groups including the development community. For over 30 years, the ordinance has helped balance the rights of property owners to develop their property with the rights of neighboring property owners and the city as a whole to avoid the negative impacts would come with the wide scale clear-cutting of Novi's woodlands. I am sure that you would agree that without this ordinance in place, Novi today would have a lot fewer trees and be a less desirable place to live for the residents and businesses of our great city. Novi's woodlands are one of our selling points and are important to maintaining the quality of life in Novi.

While there are times that residents or developers have voiced concerns with the city's Woodlands Protection ordinance, overall, I believe it has worked well. Over the years, the city has adjusted the ordinance to respond to input from the development community. The one example used as a justification for gutting these ordinances statewide would have been a non-issue in Novi for a developer who followed the appropriate review process. The city's ordinance includes a provision that

exempts invasive and dead or dying trees from the ordinance. Developers are not required to replace such trees when they are cut down. In fact, the city encourages the removal of invasive trees from new development sites. Novi's ordinance shows that private property rights can be protected against unreasonable regulation while still ensuring the preservation of quality woodlands areas.

As the city's State Representative, I ask you to vote against this legislation. Just as importantly, I ask that you use your position as the committee Vice-Chair to keep this legislation in committee until this issue can be studied further. It is too important an issue to Novi for this to be jammed through simply because one State Senator has made it his priority to do so before he leaves office.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Thank you,

Andrew Mutch

Councilmember, City of Novi